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FORMER BAKERSFIELD CITY FIRE CAPTAIN INDICTED
ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

FRESNO-- United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that on June 1, 2006, a federal grand jury sitting in Fresno returned an indictment against RONALD HARRISON KUNZLER, 42, of Bakersfield, California, charging him with one count of receipt or distribution and one count of possession of child pornography.

This case is the product of a joint investigation by the Bakersfield City Police Department and Special Agent Anthony Sorenson with the Resident Agency of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

RONALD HARRISON KUNZLER, was a Fire Captain with the Bakersfield City Fire Department where he was employed for over 20 years when he retired in early 2006. On April 20, 2005, the Police Department in Suffolk County, New York, executed a federal search warrant of a website hosting child pornography. Based on information from the Suffolk County warrant, on December 15, 2005, Detective Tim Brown with the Bakersfield Police Department executed a search warrant on KUNZLER's residence in Bakersfield and images of child pornography were found on one of the computers at the residence.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Sheila K. Oberto, who is prosecuting the case, if convicted, the maximum penalties under federal law for possession of child pornography are ten years in prison, and twenty years in prison for receipt or distribution of child pornography.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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